

MIT students rally to help Haiti quake victims

Many raise funds on campus, one traveled to provide medical assistance

By Ziwei Hao
STAFF REPORTER

After the most powerful earthquake to hit Haiti in a century, more MIT students have raised their voices in response to the catastrophe and have held events to help with the Haiti earthquake relief. From video game marathons to prayers to collages, students have found new ways to engage the community in furthering efforts to help earthquake victims.

"I had just woken up from a nap on the day the earthquake occurred, and was quickly overwhelmed by the devastation it has caused," said

Edner Paul '13, an international student from Haiti. "I could only hope for the best after desperately trying to get in touch with my father and a few of my old classmates studying in the capital. Fortunately, my close relatives were fine after they managed to get out of their house before it collapsed."

Upon hearing the news of the earthquake from his aunt, Anthony P. Farrell '12 quickly flew to the devastated country with a medical team.

"The main reason I went along at all is because I speak French, and so does a good-sized portion of the Haitian population," Farrell said. "I guess the one thing that stuck with me is the fact that nearly every building had concrete walls with barbed wire or broken glass bottles set into

the tops of them. The odd thing is, Haiti was like that before the earthquake."

Following last week's donations and the student-organized Haiti Relief Show, the MIT Chapter of Global Poverty Initiative held a charity ice skating event in the Johnson Ice Rink, where students gathered to brainstorm relief project ideas with fellow international developers.

Students in 17.920, the IAP Martin Luther King Jr. Design Seminar, constructed a display depicting the tragedies of the earthquake that had devastated the nation. Titled "Haiti: How We can Help," the project details the instability of the country in history and solicits donations.

Haiti efforts, Page 10



VIBIN KUNDUKULAM—THE TECH

Students in the Martin Luther King, Jr. design seminar are collecting donations for the relief effort in Haiti as part of an installation in Lobby 10 this week.



JACQUELINE KIRTLEY

The hungry hungry plant: Three doo-wop girls (left to right: Emily A. Moberg '11, MartaLynne D. Milan '10, and Priscilla W. Army '10) sing "Ya Never Know" while Seymour (Jonathan A. Gray '10) cradles his bloodthirsty plant in MTG's production of *Little Shop of Horrors*. The show will also run on Friday and Saturday at 8 p.m. in La Sala de Puerto Rico. **See the review**, p. 6.

Update on the HASS Requirements Changes

Further developments on changes to the Humanities Arts and Social Sciences requirement have been released.

According to Professor Jeffrey S. Ravel, the chair of the HASS governance subcommittee, the new system will take effect starting next fall. It will only affect the Class of 2014 and subsequent classes.

Students will still have the same communication and concentration requirements; the difference is that of the eight HASS classes required for graduation, the three "distribution" classes will be chosen from three categories: Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences. Unlike the current system where there are over 100 classes in the HASS-D categories, almost all HASS subjects will fit under the three categories, and the number of classes that can be taken to satisfy the requirements will expand to over 600. Thus, the new system will allow more flexibility in

scheduling, and students will be able to take more classes that they are interested in taking.

Starting in fall 2010, the Registrar's office will implement two parallel systems. One will be for the class of 2014, under the new requirements; all current students at MIT will remain under the older system of three classes chosen from five categories. No switching between systems will be allowed, and once the class of 2013 graduates the HASS-D designation will be removed.

Another focus of the HASS subcommittee are the First-Year Focus classes: about 10 to 12 classes with approximately 100 students each. First-Year Focus classes would become one of the required 8 HASS classes. Discussions about the First-Year Focus classes will take place this spring, and a recommendation is expected by spring of 2014.

The HASS subcommittee is a subcommittee of the Committee on the Undergraduate Program. The student representatives are Adam Bockelie '11 and Sukrit Ranjan '10, according to <http://web.mit.edu/committees/hrs/>.

— Joy Lee

Alumna convicted in terrorism trial

Shot M4 rifle at U.S. military personnel in Iraq prison

By C. J. Hughes
THE NEW YORK TIMES

Aafia Siddiqui '95 was convicted on Wednesday of trying to kill American military officers while she was in custody in Afghanistan, capping a trial that drew notice for its terrorist implications as well as its theatrics.

A jury in United States District Court in Manhattan found Siddiqui guilty of all seven counts against her, including attempted murder, after three days of deliberations. She faces life in prison when she is sentenced in May.

The verdict puts a final mark on one of the more twisted yet fascinating trials of a terror suspect, whose back story has attracted the attention of human rights groups as well as federal prosecutors.

In the course of the 14-day trial, Siddiqui was ejected numerous times for her outbursts, two jurors were removed from the case and one observer was arrested. There were suggestions of "secret prisons," and machine guns were waved around as evidence.



And after jurors delivered their verdict, Siddiqui was heard from again. As the jurors began leaving the courtroom, Siddiqui, her face mostly covered in a cream-colored scarf, turned in her chair to face them. Holding her right index finger in the air, she said: "This is a verdict coming from Israel and not from America. That's where the anger belongs."

Though the outburst prompted marshals to remove Siddiqui, 37,

Siddiqui, Page 11

IN SHORT

Nobel Prize-winning economist Paul Krugman PhD '77 talks about the credit crisis today at 4:15 in 32-123. It'll be packed, so get there at least an hour early.

Sex toy giveaway entries are due to cl@tech.mit.edu by Tuesday at 5 p.m. Tell us why you deserve a toy for Valentine's Day!

Fantastic Mr. Fox, LSC's Friday movie, has been canceled.

Academic deadlines today: Degree applications and concentration completion forms are due for graduating seniors; concentration proposals are due for juniors. Late seniors face \$40 fines.

Send news information and tips to news@tech.mit.edu.

PLANT! NOM NOM NOM NOM NOM

Musical Theatre Guild's *Little Shop of Horrors* will freak you out — in a good way, we promise! **ARTS**, p. 6



WHAT DID THEY DO TO YOU, HOLMES?

Guy Ritchie's vision of Sherlock Holmes as a brawling action-mystery hero. **ARTS**, p. 6

WHEN SCIENTISTS ACT SHADY

Why the scientists need to regain the public's trust. **OPN**, p. 4

FIX THE TRIANGLE, FIX SCHOOLS

Ryan Normandin explains his "golden triangle" theory of education. **OPN**, p. 5

SUPERBOWL XLIV

Will Manning deliver? Will Reggie Bush shake off the Colts' defense? *The Tech* sports staff debates. **SPO**, p. 12

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Mass. Republican Senator is sworn in, Democrats regroup

By Carl Hulse and Jeff Zeleny
THE NEW YORK TIMES

WASHINGTON — President Barack Obama and congressional Democratic leaders sought to reset their agenda as they lost their 60th vote in the Senate on Thursday, trying to push ahead with measures to spur job creation even as they grasped for ideas to keep alive their health care legislation.

On the day Scott Brown of Massachusetts was sworn in as the 41st Republican senator, Democrats offered only the bare outlines of their approach to jobs legislation and met at the White House to hash out a strategy for their agenda.

The core of the proposal will probably be a payroll tax break for em-

ployers who hire workers who have been without jobs for at least 60 days. Democrats are trying to enlist Republican support for that approach, which was proposed most recently by Sens. Charles E. Schumer, D-N.Y., and Orrin G. Hatch, R-Utah.

Democrats were hoping that the support of at least a few Republicans could build momentum behind a bill now that they no longer have the 60 votes that allowed them to break Republican filibusters solely from within the Democratic ranks.

Negotiators on the Senate Finance Committee were said to be nearing an agreement on the core components of a jobs package, including the payroll tax relief and an extension of a portfolio of existing tax breaks, including incentives for research and

development.

But a deal remained elusive on Thursday evening as senators tried to work out details including how to pay for the jobs proposal. Democrats were also pushing to include an extension of unemployment benefits and of health care coverage for those out of work. Discussions were also under way about potentially attaching other initiatives, including a provision to prevent a steep cut in Medicare payment rates for doctors and a reauthorization of money for highway repairs.

The majority leader, Harry Reid of Nevada, said that the Senate would move forward with a jobs package on Monday with or without bipartisan agreement but that he was hoping for cooperation.

Google asks spy agency to look into cyberattacks

By John Markoff
THE NEW YORK TIMES

SAN FRANCISCO — Google has turned to the National Security Agency for technical assistance to learn more about the computer network attackers who breached the company's cybersecurity defenses last year, a person with direct knowledge of the agreement said Thursday.

The collaboration between Google, the world's largest search engine company, and the federal agency in charge of global electronic surveillance raises both civil liber-

ties issues and new questions about how much Google knew about the electronic thefts it experienced when it stated last month that it might end its business operations in China, where it said the attacks originated. The agreement was first reported on Wednesday evening by *The Washington Post*.

By turning to the NSA, which has no statutory authority to investigate domestic criminal acts, instead of the Department of Homeland Security, which does have such authority, Google is clearly seeking to avoid having its search engine, e-mail and

other Web services regulated as part of the nation's "critical infrastructure."

The U.S. government has become increasingly concerned about the computer risks confronting energy and water distribution systems and financial and communications networks. Systems designated as critical infrastructure are increasingly being held to tighter regulatory standards.

On Jan. 12, Google announced a "new approach to China" on a company Web site, stating that the attacks were "highly sophisticated" and came from China.

Questions for Toyota go beyond gas pedals and into electronics

FLINT, MICH.—It was a Saturday afternoon, April 19, 2008, and Guadalupe Alberto, a 77-year-old former autoworker, was driving her 2005 Toyota Camry. Within blocks of her home, witnesses told police, the car accelerated out of control, jumped a curb and flew through the air before crashing into a tree.

Alberto was killed instantly.

Her car's model was not among the millions of Camrys and other Toyotas recently recalled for sticky accelerator pedals. And it also did not have floor mats at the time, which were part of a separate recall.

Instead, Alberto's crash is being looked at as a possible example of problems with the electronic system that controls the throttle and engine speed in Toyotas.

Such computerized systems are part of a broader inquiry by U.S. regulators into problems with sudden, unintended acceleration in Toyotas, beyond the issues that have led to the company's recent recalls. Toyota denies there is a problem with such systems.

In a lawsuit filed in Circuit Court in Genesee County, Mich., Alberto's family alleges that Toyota and one of its suppliers, the Japanese firm Denso, were negligent in manufacturing an electronic throttle system that caused her death.

"We think Toyota has a safety problem with the electronic throttle control system in Camrys and other Toyota models," said Eric Snyder, a lawyer for the family.

— Bill Vlasic, *The New York Times*

Rebuffing scholars, Germany vows to keep Hitler out of print


MUNICH —In Germany, an author is granted an ironclad copyright for 70 years after his death, apparently even if he is subsequently regarded as one of the greatest mass murderers in history and a dark stain on the national character.

Hitler's copyright on "Mein Kampf," in the hands of the Bavarian government since the end of the Nazi regime, has long been used to keep his inflammatory manifesto off the shelves in Germany. But with the expiration date looming in 2015, there is a developing showdown here over the first German publication of the book since the end of World War II.

Experts at the respected Institute of Contemporary History in Munich say they want to prepare a critical, annotated version of the book for release when the copyright expires 70 years after Hitler's suicide in his Berlin bunker.

"We hope to prevent neo-Nazi publications by putting out a commented, scholarly edition before that," said Edith Raim, a historian at the institute. " 'Mein Kampf' is one of the central texts if you want to explain National Socialism, and it hasn't been available in a commented edition at all in Germany."

— Nicholas Kulish, *The New York Times*



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CORRECTIONS

A story on Tuesday misspelled the name of the winning 6.370 BattleCode team. The correct name is “My Archon Died BellmanFording the Stream,” not “BellamFording.” Bellman-Ford is an algorithm for computing shortest-paths in networks.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The Lobby 7 Design Competition and the Empty Plinths

The public face of MIT is 77 Massachusetts Avenue. The building, with its imposing Ionic porch and lofty interior, is not only an architectural landmark in its own right, but also the gateway into the world of MIT. The lobby — officially titled the William Barton Rogers Lobby, but more popularly called Lobby 7 — was designed in 1939 by William Welles Bosworth as the culminating element of the campus that he

An article last Wednesday, “MIT Community Joins In Haiti Relief Efforts; Students Raise Funds,” gave incorrect information about the organizers of both the donation booth and the Talent Showcase event, “L’Union Fait La Force: Strength Through Unity.” The Council for the Advancement of Black Students did not organize the donation booths nor the

event, though it supported both. The article also misstated the membership of the council. The organization is not made up of “the executive chairs and members of the Black Student Union, the Caribbean Club, African Student Association, Chocolate City, and Black Women’s Alliance.” It is made up of the presidents and vice presidents of those groups.

designed and that was built in 1916. Ever since the completion of Lobby 7, the four plinths that define the corners of the great rotunda have remained empty. They were originally intended as bases celebrating Aristotle, Ictinus, Archimedes, and Callicrates.

The student competition is to elicit and present designs for filling the four Lobby 7 plinths. Designs are to be created in the spirit of MIT’s official creed “mens et manus.” They should also celebrate the past, present, and future spirit of MIT innovation.

There is no expectation that any of the winning entries will be built. There is no plan to remove or alter the plinths in any

Global warming in the hot seat

Scientists have lost the public’s trust. They need to earn it back.

Keith Yost

STAFF COLUMNIST

In November 2009, hackers released of thousands of confidential e-mails from the Climatic Research Unit (CRU) of the University of East Anglia. Although the e-mails did not reveal scientific fraud or the fabrication of scientific evidence (as recently concluded in a partial decision by an internal review board) they did suggest that researchers at the CRU had become partisan in their support of the anthropogenic global warming hypothesis.

Given the considerable politicization of climate change science, it is hard not to sympathize with the researchers quoted in the e-mails. Scientists, by virtue of their technical know-how, are often forced to act not only as researchers, but also as the public defenders of their research, responsible for translating their findings and converting scientific consensus into public consensus. It is difficult to integrate the scientific method, which pursues the truth through a process of hypothesis and experimentation, with political processes, which are adversarial in nature and pursue the truth through the clash of opposing viewpoints. Acting as a researcher is fundamentally different from acting as an intermediary to laymen. This dual role is dangerous, and on display in the e-mails is a failure to disassociate the scientist’s role as advocate from his role as researcher.

Some of the activities revealed in the e-mails are decidedly unscientific. Attempting to delete records so that they remain hidden from a Freedom of Information Act request falls well outside the bounds of acceptable. For the scientists in question, their only saving grace seems to be that they failed in their attempt. But most of the activities revealed in the e-mails fall within a gray area of scientific conduct. Choosing to represent a data set in a given way could be done as a matter of convenient presentation, or as a deliberate

means of encouraging a desired, but unsupported, conclusion. Blacklisting a research journal or criticizing a peer-reviewed paper may result from personal bias, or a legitimate belief that the journal or paper is poor.

It is in this gray area that politicized science is most troublesome. A clear violation, such as deleting data, can be policed. But we must continue to rely on the discretion of scientists to perform peer review and filter data for public consumption.

If we are to succeed, we must take every action to ensure that climate research does not unfairly quash dissenting views.

There is a temptation on the part of scientists to take their position for granted. But while it may be true that the scientist’s role as medium between technical data and layperson understanding is established by default — the scientist is the only one who has the expertise to perform such a role — public trust of the scientist in that role is not automatically given; it must be earned. There must be faith that scientists are not tipping the scales of research so as to make it easier to advocate a particular position. Though they have not committed fraud, the researchers at CRU have shown themselves unworthy of that trust.

This is unfortunate, because the climate debate is now entering a phase where that trust is needed most. The policy question at hand is not whether global warming exists, but the extent to which it should be

mitigated. We are not faced with an either-or ultimatum, but rather a spectrum of possible actions. Should we implement a carbon tax, we would like to know whether the price of carbon should be \$20 per ton or \$40. Should we implement a cap-and-trade system, we would like to know how many permits should be allowed. To make such policy decisions, we need to understand not only the science of climate change, but also its economics, the costs and benefits of reducing carbon emissions. The first-stab attempts at such estimates have been deliberately manipulated to produce politically desired results. The Stern Review, for example, monkeyed around with the parameters surrounding time discounting to give greater weight to the harm caused by global warming. Future reports may prove less biased than Stern’s, but will still face the daunting task of having to justify the use of a particular set of parameters.

This fight is contentious enough without mistrust of the underlying science being added to the mix. We face a long and difficult debate that requires not only the resolution of many difficult scientific questions, but also the reconciliation of the different risk profiles, long-term discounting rates, and equality preferences of many heterogeneous constituencies, not all of whom will ultimately benefit from carbon mitigation. If we are to succeed, we must take every action to ensure that climate research does not unfairly quash dissenting views. In the case of CRU, we must remove any researcher who attempted to circumvent the Freedom of Information Act. For other research units, such as ours at MIT, we must take care to foster a research environment that is tolerant of dissent and does not institutionalize a prejudice against climate change skepticism. That may seem unfair, especially when others do not constrain themselves to follow the same rules. But if science is going to effectively support policy, that is the standard we must hold ourselves to.

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The Golden Triangle of a public education system

Education reform in America starts with teachers, parents and students

By Ryan T. Normandin
STAFF COLUMNIST

This is the first of a three-part series on how we can fix public education in the U.S.

A wise man once told me that there are three major components of a school system: teachers, parents, and students. Each component requires individual attention and has its own unique needs. Each also has unique contributions and ideas. If any one of these components is ignored or fails to contribute, a school system will never reach its full potential.

Throughout my years in public education, I witnessed just how important the health of this “Golden Triangle” is. The triangle, however, can be powerfully influenced by state and federal policies — or the lack of them. Thus, as we enter into the 21st century, it is time for sweeping reforms in education. No longer can the United States afford to relax in the middle of the international pack. No longer can standards be lowered so that no one fails and everyone is happy. No longer can each state craft its own curriculum independent from others. This article is the first of a three-part series examining what the United States must do not just to fix its public education system, but to make it the best in the world.

The first part of the triangle, teachers, is responsible for the day-to-day operations of a school system and for the all-important duty of teaching. Teachers can be a school system's greatest strength, but they can also be its greatest weakness. Teachers have evolved over the years from lecturers to role models, mentors, and trusted adults. This shift means it is critically important for teachers and administrators to be available to discuss anything with students.

Structurally, many reforms can be implemented to address the current inherent weaknesses of this component. The first is perhaps the most important: merit-based pay that evaluates teachers based on their students' test scores. The fact is that school systems are

rise with both very good and very bad teachers. Those teachers who consistently have high-scoring or improving students should be paid more to reward their demonstrated excellence and to encourage them to remain in the field. Conversely, even after given opportunities to fix their mistakes, those teachers who consistently demonstrate an inability to improve student performance on standardized tests should be fired.

This is why I am excited about President Obama and Secretary of Education Arne Duncan's new education proposals. These proposals seek to reform No Child Left Behind and task high schools with graduating students "college and career-ready." Already, 40 states are collaborating on writing standards to define exactly what it means to be college and career-ready. The administration's proposals will also change the way in which federal money is doled out. Federal money traditionally given formulaically to struggling schools will now go to schools who pledge changes that the administration considers reform, ensuring that money doesn't simply flow to the same failing programs. While No Child Left Behind required that teachers be highly qualified for their positions, the Race to the Top program that Duncan implemented requires states that want money to rate teachers based on student test score improvements. This is absolutely a step in the right direction, and I am hopeful that more reforms will follow that continue to emphasize the quality of teachers.

The second component of the triangle are parents, who have the unique ability to influence their child's success or failure. They play the lead role in providing the emotional support that children of all ages require to be successful in both school and life. However, just as there are some teachers who need extra support and professional development to reach their fullest potential, many parents do not start out as experts in child development. While most schools require teachers to undergo regular professional development, I was unable to find any states that mandate

parenting classes for those parents who have struggling students. Why?

I recently sat down with Eve Sullivan, the Founder and President of Parents Forum, whose mission is “to foster honest, respectful, and caring communications in families.” She and her organization hold workshops to provide support and a community atmosphere for parents as they raise their children. Rather than provide strict rules for parenting, these workshops acknowledge that there is no absolute “right way” to raise a child, and so offer suggestions, advice, and most importantly, the experience of being supported.

Ms. Sullivan shared some of her frustra-

No longer can the U.S. afford to relax in the middle of the international pack

tions with me. She noted that it was oftentimes difficult to get parents to attend workshops, and we agreed that this sometimes stems from a belief that attending means admitting that they have somehow failed their child. This is not the case! The only way they fail their child is if they know they need help and don't seek it out. What is needed is a cultural shift where society, rather than expecting all parents to completely understand how to raise children and get them through school successfully, seeks out struggling parents through their struggling children and helps them. If the state invested in such a program, they would be helping children to succeed in school by helping parents to be the best twwthey can be. At the same time, the state should invest in more research in this area, as lack of data regarding what types of intervention were best was also a clear obstacle to Ms. Sullivan and others who share her crusade to help parents.

The final component in triangle: students. So often, it seems that students are at the mercy of policies put into place by their parents or

the school's administration.

The students are the ones who witness teachers every day. They move through the state-mandated curriculum every year. They live the policies put into place by schools and experience the very best and worst that each school system has to offer. Does it not make sense to get feedback from the students on what is working and what isn't? Although some teachers issue anonymous feedback forms independently at the end of a class for themselves, school administrations should require this to be done and review them. Any competent administration will be able to ignore the frivolous reviews, and over the course of a few years, they would undoubtedly gain some real insight into the point of view of a student in how they view different teachers.

One way of achieving effective student feedback is that of a Student Advisory Council, which comes from the same man who advocated the "Golden Triangle." Monthly meetings held with the school superintendent, principal, or assistant principal to discuss any matters that may come up have been, in my experience, extremely valuable. Such a council is a source of positive ideas and allows students to advocate for their own educations. Of course, it's vital that the administrator actually listens to the students and acts on important issues. Otherwise, the students will recognize that the group is just a way for the administration to claim they permitted student input, while actually ignoring it and, to the loss of everyone, never taking advantage of its value.

Increased student participation in learning should be a goal that all school systems strive for. After all, students' performances are key if the United States is to pull ahead of other nations in education. So how do we do this? In the next two articles of this series, I will explore the vital changes that must be made both to educational standards and the curriculum.

This article is dedicated to the memory of Superintendent Daniel Stefanilo, who embodied everything this article advocates for and so much more.

GUEST COLUMN

A different kind of democratization

In the democratic classroom, students and instructors learn from each other

By Fathi El-Shihibi

When reading Maggie Liu's article entitled "College admissions is no scam — just reflection of socioeconomic disparity" from the January 20 issue of *The Tech*, I got the impression that the writer, like many others before her, seems to be of the opinion that education, regardless of being superior or inferior, fundamentally shapes individuals rather than being in many respects shaped by them. College students, regardless of their prior education and social conditions can equally benefit when democracy is infused in the process of receiving and exchanging knowledge in and outside of the class rooms. Nowadays, when the issue of democracy and higher education is brought up, it usually alludes to extending social justice and providing access to higher education for those groups in society that are disadvantaged due to lingering discrimination based on color of skin or national origin, among others, or due to lack of financial means. Even though this is still an ongoing situation, institutions of higher education like Northeastern University have been tak-

ing measures to combat the issue by providing financial aid and promoting affirmative action and diversity. Ironically, these same measures are now being blamed for having lowered the standards of higher education. I, however, have a different take on having these two concepts, democracy and education. I believe they form a complementary rather than opposing or antithetical relationship.

The debate surrounding the infusion of democracy into the learning process has been around for some time even though the parameters of this evolving relationship concerning instructors, students and administration has yet to be clearly defined. The educator Paul R. Carr of Youngstown State University explains in his summer 2006 essay in *Academic Exchange Quarterly*, "Democracy is a highly desirable but contested concept in education. However, little is known about how current and future educators perceive, experience and relate to democracy, which could have a significant impact on how students learn about, and become involved in, civic engagement and democracy." Apart from giving students access to the decision

making process through forming students unions or being consulted concerning any development on campus that directly or indirectly impact the students population, college students nowadays are being given more say not only in terms of the education they receive, but in being an integral part of that education.

The democratization of higher education that I see taking shape has its start in redefining the relationship between instructors and students. It is no longer about someone with superior knowledge imparting it to an audience, but rather a relationship of equals who have mutual interest in sharing knowledge regardless of who is on the giving or the receiving end of that knowledge.

To put this simply, the more one teaches, the more one comes to the realization that education is fundamentally mutual. When students are given the opportunity to be engaged, the ensuing exchange becomes an outlet of intellectual energy that truly injects vitality into the issues at hand. Contrary to some educators' views, today's college students for the most part possess intelligence

that is unique to their generation, which can be brought to the surface given the right approach and the atmosphere conducive to a more pluralistic education. Knowledge, particularly in the humanities, is not set in stone, therefore class input when given the opportunity to do so opens new horizons and consequently enriches the understanding of both students and teachers. Students' participation in my case has been a vehicle for gaining further insight and consequently leads to a deeper understanding of the subjects being examined.

I would like to conclude with a saying by the well known Victorian author Thomas Carlyle that I believe may help lay the foundation for the democratization of imparting and receiving knowledge: "Every man is my superior, in that I may learn from him." To which the equally well known New England philosopher of transcendentalism Ralph Waldo Emerson aptly added, "And every man is my inferior in that he may learn from me."

Dr. Fathi El-Shihibi is a faculty member in the Department of Philosophy and Religion at Northeastern University.

UA UPDATE

UA Elections coming up

The first Senate meeting of the Spring semester will be held on Monday, February 8. The schedule for the rest of the semester is as follows: February 22, March 1, March 8, March 29, April 5, April 12 (Senate Officer Elections announced), April 26 (Senate Officer Elections), May 3, May 10.

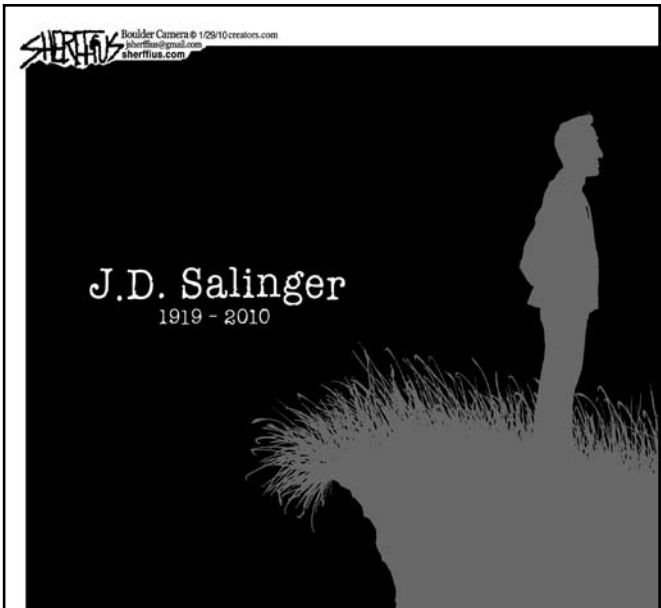
All meetings begin at 7:30 p.m. and are held in the UA Senate Chambers (W20-400).

Interested in representing your student body as President or Vice President of the Undergraduate Association or in representing your class as a Class Council officer? The UA Candidates Meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 9 at 8 p.m. in the UA Senate Chambers (W20-400) for those interested in running

for a position. Candidate packets, which include details on the rules and regulations, the do's and don'ts of campaigning, and ways to avoid violations, will be handed out at the meeting. Pizza will be served. Online versions of the candidate packets will be available on the UA Election Commission website at ua.mit.edu/elect if you cannot make the Candidates Meeting. If you have any questions, please contact ua-elect@mit.edu.

The UA Executive Committee will be holding regular meetings on Wednesdays at 7 p.m. in W20-401 starting on Wednesday, February 10. All undergraduates are welcome to attend.

— Elizabeth A. Denys, UA Secretary General



Little Shop, big laughs, bigger plants

By Michael Lin
STAFF WRITER

All nine players in *Little Shop* turn in strong performances. Zachary Barryte '13, in his second MTG show, has really come

Both the tone and the setting of the

If I wanted to get really nitpicky, there

If you don't mind a show that's a bit on the surreal side — and if you've seen MTG shows before, chances are good you don't — I'd recommend it for an evening's entertainment. Performances are Friday and Saturday at 8 p.m. in La Sala de Puerto Rico.

Luciana Souza and company charm and enchant audience



The Luciana Souza Trio creates a fresh and universal sound.

By Samuel Markson
ASSOCIATE ARTS EDITOR

Growing up in Sao Paolo, Luciana Souza started early on as a musician, training both in classical and Brazilian jazz, and later coming to study at Berklee. Having covered all that territory — musically, geographically — she's well equipped to understand and perform within several different styles, and her experience with different types of people informs the "wholeness" of her work. This is a fresh sound that you'd be comfortable showing to your grandmother. But

Luciana Souza is an artist to listen for, as much by devoted jazz fans as by listeners who have given up on jazz. Her work is universal, and we can expect her to keep producing more new, beautiful works in the near future.

Smooth grooves from across the ocean

Atakoglu's new jazz fusion album takes you across continents

By Samuel Markson
ASSOCIATE ARTS EDITOR

The album opens with “Into You,” a

Released July 28, 2009

The sum total is a very broad and successful execution of one man's vision. Here's hoping for albums from Fahir Atakoglu, and for more artists crossing the Atlantic.

Review Movies, Music, and Eats for The Tech!

join@tech.mit.edu

MOVIE REVIEW

Whodunit, Sherlock?



WARNER BROTHERS PICTURES

Sherlock Holmes (Robert Downey Jr.) is still mostly recognizable in this film, even though Director Guy Ritchie tried to turn him into an action star.

★★★★☆

Sherlock Holmes reinvented: shorter, darker and a lot feistier

By Bogdan Fedeles
STAFF WRITER

This is Holmes as you have never seen him.

Director Guy Ritchie took Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's celebrated detective (Robert Downey Jr.) and warped him so much he very well could have been a brand new character. Nevertheless, *Sherlock Holmes* the movie is a brilliant production that will take you on a dark captivating adventure, with lots of relentless action, veiled mysteries and satisfying surprises.

As a detective movie, *Holmes* is thoroughly entertaining because it carefully preserves each mystery until a shocking and unexpected revelation. In this movie, the audience often knows even less than the characters and that's what keeps everyone guessing. The plot is, as expected, highly convoluted and while it is not directly adapted from any of Doyle's stories, it fits remarkably well in the genre and the period. The film begins with Lord Blackwood being tried and executed for a series of mysterious crimes connected to dark magic. When the string of crimes continues, rumors spread that Lord Blackburn has been resurrected. Holmes is summoned to help with the investigation. What follows is a high-octane race, full of unexpected twists and turns, with Holmes and the police trying to connect the dots and prevent an ominous prediction from coming true.

In stories, Sherlock Holmes delights his fans primarily through the power of his wit. Reason and logic, coupled with a keen instinct for clues are his main weapons. And of course, there is his British eccentricity and predilection for order and finer things in life. Downey Jr.'s Holmes, though is a very different fellow. Downey Jr., who is 5 foot 8, appears insecure and arrogant, disdainful of manners and civilized life. He engages in fights and extreme drunken celebrations,

with little respect for his neighbors. He does, though, display a penchant for science and experimentation and the Holmesian ability to pick up on even the tiniest clues. Downey's acting is incredibly strong and detailed, allowing us to revel in the complexity of Holmes's mind. I suspect he drew from his own battles with addiction ten years ago to flesh out some of Holmes's darker side.

We are led to believe that Holmes's entire life would crumble around him if it weren't for his good friend Dr. Watson, suavely played by Jude Law. In this movie, Dr. Watson serves a more active role in investigations, and often acts as a moral compass and emotional crutch for Holmes. While Law's part is somewhat less extensive, Law's charm and charisma delights.

Perhaps Holmes's most striking new trait is his bad-assery. While the original character was no stranger of occasional brawls, the new Sherlock Holmes is more like a true action hero, a nineteenth-century Jason Statham or Brad Pitt (both of whom have worked with director Ritchie). Brains and brawn! While Holmes's mental notes that often foreshadow the fights are humorous and aim at showing the logic behind all actions, when Holmes emerges victorious after single-handedly disbanding a large group of adversaries feels somewhat exaggerated.

The movie's cinematography receives very high marks. The "film-noir" feel and Ritchie's highly original camera angles and transitions (many reminiscent of 2002's "Snatch") complement the suspenseful moments and thoroughly engage the audience. The MIT crowd will appreciate all the science experiments, presented in great detail. Finally, the movie shrewdly weaves in a secondary plot that introduces an already planned sequel, featuring Professor Moriarty, Holmes's archnemesis. If this is not convincing enough, rumor has it that Moriarty will be played by no other than Brad Pitt!

★★★★☆

Robert Downey Jr. blows everyone else away, still can't save this film

By Kevin Wang
STAFF WRITER

Watching Sherlock Holmes is a bit like going to the circus: loud noises, moving objects and bright colors — but no substance. Although fairly entertaining, Holmes relies too heavily on Robert Downey Jr., who singlehandedly elevates the film above mediocrity as if he were LeBron and Holmes the 2009 Cleveland Cavaliers. Holmes follows the hero (Robert Downey Jr.) and his sarcastic sidekick Dr. Watson (Jude Law) as they tackle a conspiracy to bring down the British government.

It's the classic Holmes formula: They find clues, solve the occasional puzzle, and generally act clever. We are also treated to a vaguely amusing love affair between Holmes and Irene Adler (Rachel McAdams), an American con artist who plays a part in a larger conspiracy (frankly it was all too convoluted to follow). Holmes predictably solves the mystery and sets up a sequel. Very few salient moments occur in between, besides some pithy dialogue, a few obligatory plot twists and the occasional shot of Rachel McAdams in a corset.

To be honest, I wish that the film was more than just a vehicle for sarcastic remarks from Downey Jr. Holmes is a two hour demonstration of Robert Downey Jr.'s ability to be charming, with a few slapstick scenes thrown in for effect. Downey Jr.'s brilliant portrayal of Holmes as an addled crazed genius helps to keep Holmes from becoming a bad episode of CSI (and let's be honest, every episode of CSI is bad), but no amount of clever words spoken in a British accent can save a fundamentally dull movie.

While several scenes detail Holmes's complex deductive methods, just as many show him moping around his apartment or performing strange medical experiments on Watson's pets. Interestingly, these se-

quences chronicling the duo's troubled home life are actually among the best in the film, suggesting that Sherlock Holmes can essentially be boiled down to a two-man tag team version of *Friends*.

Sherlock Holmes suffers from the same curse of lameness that virtually all mystery and suspense movies fall prey to. More child-friendly than a horror movie and more dull than a traditional action film, Holmes lacks the presence of anything special other than Downey Jr.'s wide range of bizarre facial expressions.

The movie is one good dismemberment from a horror film, one good cruise missile from an action movie, and one good nude scene away from a romance movie, but the resulting sexual-encounter of genres simply isn't compelling. Downey Jr. is so excellent that he makes the rest of the cast look like extras from an episode of *Barney*, and nothing else happens in the film that one couldn't find in a YouTube montage of people getting hit in the face by flying objects.

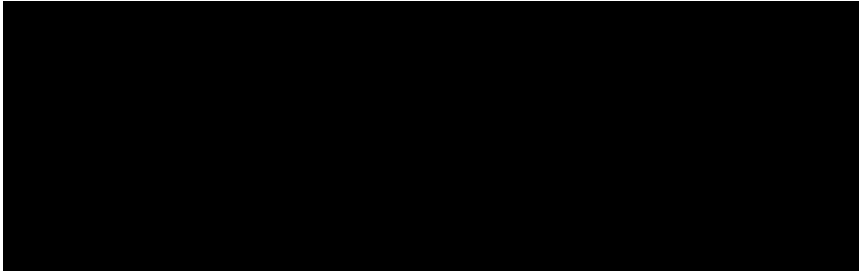
While *Sherlock Holmes* is certainly fairly entertaining, its lack of real content makes it quite difficult for me to recommend seeing it. I cannot even recommend watching it as a date movie, because any approximately normal human leaves incapable of loving anyone but Robert Downey Jr. Seeing as how *Avatar* could be bathing your eyeballs in liquid happiness, don't even bother with Holmes.

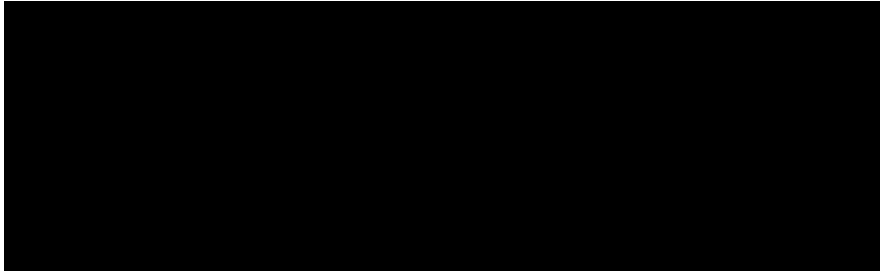
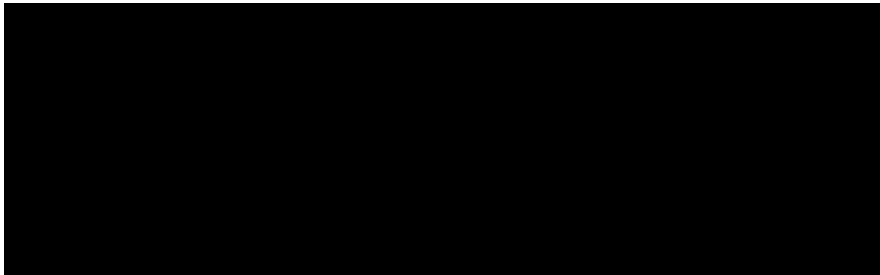
"Sherlock Holmes" (2009)

Directed by Guy Ritchie

Starring Robert Downey Jr.,
Jude Law, Rachel McAdams

Rated PG-13 – Now Playing



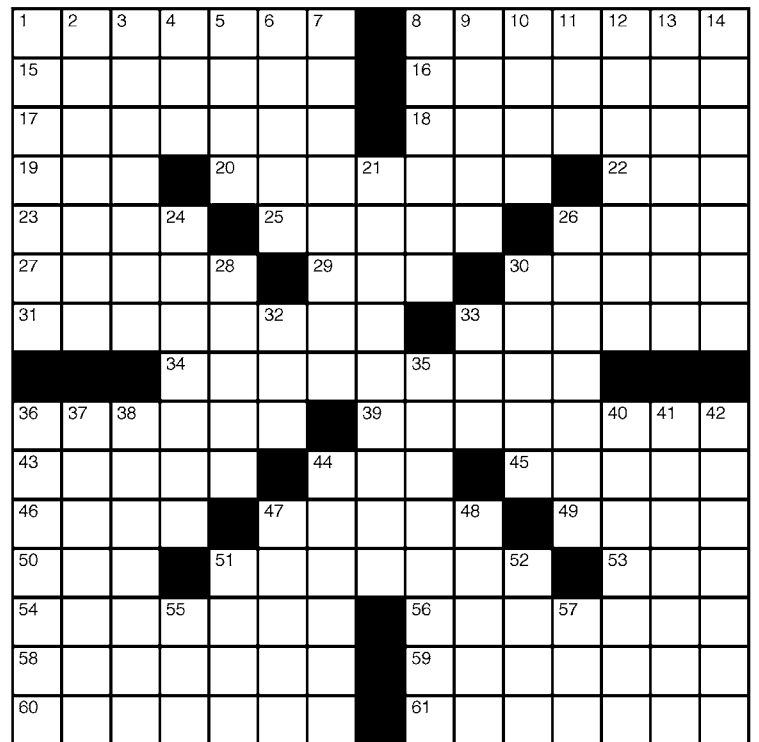


Solution, page 10

1 Believes in
8 Lodgers
15 Hidden bed
16 Recant humbly
17 Libyan capital
18 Incentives
19 Boyz II __
20 Pascal collection
22 Five fifty-five in old
Rome?
23 Italian eight
25 Turns obliquely
26 Quote as an authority
27 Sturdy
29 __-relief
30 Yuccalike plant
31 Mythical Greek king
33 Some sore throats
34 Female impersonator
36 Fistfights
39 Superfluous
43 Huntley and Atkins
44 Grave engraving
45 Old-time peep show
46 Vague state of mind
47 Reiner and Jung

49 "I Remember Mama" character	10 Soul singer Redding
50 Worldwide workers' grp.	11 1900
51 Short choral work	12 Well-read
53 Davis Love __	13 Desk type
54 Carrying a tune	14 Pivots
56 Gangster Al and others	21 Ascidian
58 Three-time Wimbledon champion	24 Make obsolete
59 K-2's neighbor	26 Of part of the eye
60 Entices	28 Infield covers
61 Gobi and Negev	30 Longhorn
	32 Vegas opening
	33 D.C. bigwig
	35 Out of the running

1 At the very back of the boat	40 Sink adjunct
2 M.L. King's widow	41 Superlatively weird
3 Hillary or Chelsea	42 Stops
4 Key-punch bus.	44 Open grasslands
5 Stern deck	47 Paddler's craft
6 Bulrushes	48 Barrel slat
7 Hemipterous insect	51 Rnd. line
8 Repairs stitches	52 Tarzan's foster family?
9 Author of "Expensive People"	55 Wildebeest
	57 Smelter fodder



DOESN'T IT HURT?

IT'S A VERY SIMPLE PROCEDURE, I ASSURE YOU. IT TAKES JUST SECONDS!

CHOWF

Solution, page 10

	9	7	8	2				3
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	6		7					9
	3		2	6				1
	7	5				3	6	
6				5	3		9	
7					9		3	
								2
4				1	2	9	7	

Instructions: Fill in the grid so that each column, row, and 3 by 3 grid contains exactly one of each of the digits 1 through 9.



SEAN T. TANG—THE TECH

Mixing business and pleasure: A Charm School instructor lectures students on proper etiquette during professional gatherings in which alcoholic beverages are served. MIT’s 17th annual Charm School, coordinated by Student Activies Office, took place at the Stratton Student Center on Friday, Jan. 29.

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Executive vacancies in UA, ASA

Paul Baranay ’11, speaker of the Undergraduate Association Senate, has resigned his position as Speaker. Baranay announced his intention to resign at the Dec. 7 senate meeting, with the intention to take a medical leave from MIT, he said.

Baranay said in an e-mail that he has “officially transferred to the University of Notre Dame, where I am now enrolled as a sophomore in biology.”

Baranay said that transferring to Notre Dame allows him to be closer to his doctors and to his home, especially to his mother who is battling breast cancer (the cancer is believed to be non-terminal, he said).

Tim Stumbaugh ’12, the Senate’s Vice-Chair, has served as acting speaker. Stumbaugh said in an e-mail that he was “planning on running” for Senate Speaker, and that he was not aware of anyone else intending to run.

Baranay was also secretary of the Association of Student Activities. In addition, the ASA lost President Rachel E. Meyer ’10, who is on medical leave this term and has resigned.

Meyer was also UA HistComm Chair and Dormcon Treasurer.

— John A. Hawkinson



VIBIN KUNDUKULAM—THE TECH

UA President Michael A. Bennie ’10 has shaved his head in solidarity with a friend undergoing chemotherapy for leukemia.



ELIJAH MENA—THE TECH

Volunteers hand out hummus samples at the Hummus Taste Off, sponsored by MIT Hillel, in the Bush Room on Jan. 28. Tasters voted for the best flavors and tried hummus ice cream from J.P. Licks.

MIT

マサチューセツ工科大学

アニメ

ANIME

9:20PM

Zoku Sayonara Zetsubou Sensei 1-4

Japan's most pessimistic teacher meets Japan's most optimistic schoolgirl- and all of her slightly insane classmates.

Hijinks and social commentary ensue.

11PM:

Kuchu Blanko (Flying Trapezes) 1-2

A bear-masked psychiatrist with his own set of... issues counsels various patients in a trippy, psychedelic version of Tokyo.

7:10PM

Durarara!! 1-4

Mikado Ryugamine might be in over his head. Having transferred to Ikebukuro in search of the the big city life, he quickly learns that some urban legends are more than myth.

Welcome back!

Join us for the first showing of Spring 2010:

5 February (TODAY!), room 6-120

Pizza sales at 8, serving at 9

‘Game-Competition Marathon’ supports Haiti

Christian groups rally to solicit community prayers and donations

Haiti efforts, from Page 1

Others have come up with novel ideas to raise money. The Singapore-MIT GAMBIT Game Lab will be hosting a charity event called The Complete Game-Completion Marathon on the weekend of Feb. 26-28. Individuals and teams are asked to come to the lab and play a selected game to completion in one sitting. Participants will need to independently seek sponsorship, as in charity walk. All the proceeds are going directly to relief efforts in Haiti through Partners in Health.

“Many of us at the lab were struck by the disaster in Haiti, and we see the greater video game community as an energetic and powerful group,” said Abe D. Stein of the GAMBIT Lab. “I am more interested in our video game community remembering our strength and responsibility to the world. Game developers and game players are a tight knit group, and as a primary goal I want partici-

pation and awareness from lots of people showing that when driven, our little ‘game’ village can accomplish a lot of good.” This event is the first of its kind in GAMBIT’s history, according to Stein.

Jesus and Justice, a new Christian student group, plans to hold a fast and prayer session today at noon in Lobdell. Jasmine Park ’11, the organizer of the event, has decided on a three-week challenge to raise money

and awareness in partnership with other Christian MIT groups such as Asian Christian Fellowship, Campus Crusade for Christ, and Graduate Christian Fellowship. Park has been collecting contributions and written prayers from students to post on a collage in the Student Center. Donations are will go to World Vision, a faith-based organization on the ground in Haiti distributing aid for earthquake survivors.

“Other than donations, we also want to unite the community and engage the campus to think upon the incident and emphasize with the victims,” explained Park. “We will gather the requests from the written prayers and pray together for Haiti on Saturday.”

Anna Young from MIT Innovations in International Health is developing a solar autoclave to sterilize water and medical equipment. The

technology is still in the development phase, but Young’s team has tested it in Nicaragua and hopes to take it to Haiti in the coming year.

“Haiti is the epitome of why we are doing this work. The people in the economy will benefit directly from our work,” Young said. “Our hearts go out to the people in Haiti. We want to use this as an opportunity to engage people in the U.S. to keep working on better technologies.”

LEGAL COUNSEL

MIT students, family, employers and start-ups seeking U.S. legal counsel, campus or office consultation. Call: James Dennis Leary, Esq. 321-544-0012

APPLY for a Council for the Arts Grant

Application deadline: February 12, 2010

Contact: Susan Cohen cohen@media.mit.edu

Application: web.mit.edu/arts/do/funding/grantguide.html web.mit.edu/arts/do/funding/grantguide.html web.mit.edu/arts/do/funding/grantguide.html web.mit.edu/arts/do/funding/grantguide.html web.mit.edu/arts/do/funding/grantguide.html web.mit.edu/arts/do/funding/grantguide.html

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Northeastern University

Solution to Crossword from 2/2/10

A	L	A	M	O	A	S	C	A	P	S	C	I
B	A	B	A	R	N	I	O	B	E	E	O	N
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					M	O	W	E	R	S	A	T
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E	L	A	T		U	S	O	F	A		M	A
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A	S	H	E	N		O	P	E	N	T	O	
C	L	O	S	E	T	S		T	I	N	H	A
T	A	R		T	E	N	N	I	S	C	O	A
O	K	S		T	R	I	E	R		A	N	N
N	E	E		E	N	A	T	E		N	O	D

Solution to Sudoku from page 8

5	9	7	8	2	6	4	1	3
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8	6	1	7	3	4	5	2	9
9	3	4	2	6	7	8	5	1
2	7	5	9	8	1	3	6	4
6	1	8	4	5	3	2	9	7
7	2	6	5	4	9	1	3	8
1	5	9	3	7	8	6	4	2
4	8	3	6	1	2	9	7	5

Solution to Crossword from page 8

A	C	C	E	P	T	S		R	O	O	M	E	R	S
F	O	L	D	O	U	T		E	A	T	C	R	O	W
T	R	I	P	O	L	I		S	T	I	M	U	L	I
M	E	N		P	E	N	S	E	E	S		D	L	V
O	T	T	O		S	K	E	W	S		C	I	T	E
S	T	O	U	T		B	A	S		S	O	T	O	L
T	A	N	T	A	L	U	S		S	T	R	E	P	S
					D	R	A	G	Q	U	E	E	N	
S	C	R	A	P	S		U	N	N	E	E	D	E	D
C	H	E	T	S		R	I	P		R	A	R	E	E
H	A	Z	E		C	A	R	L	S		L	A	R	S
I	L	O		C	A	N	T	A	T	A		I	I	I
S	I	N	G	I	N	G		C	A	P	O	N	E	S
M	C	E	N	R	O	E		E	V	E	R	E	S	T
S	E	D	U	C	E	S		D	E	S	E	R	T	S

NOBODY ELSE
CLEANS UP
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WE CAN'T MAKE
ANY PROGRESS
ON OUR PROJECT

WE'RE looking
for trouble!

WE JUST
CAN'T GET
ALONG

I DON'T HAVE
TIME TO DO
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Aafia Siddiqui '95 trial is a circus

Mental health issues a factor

Siddiqui, from Page 1

from the courtroom, she returned as Judge Richard M. Berman and lawyers for both sides discussed a sentencing date. She spoke again, though her comments were directed at the judge. "They're not my attorneys," said Siddiqui, before she was led out.

Siddiqui, who was described in 2004 by Robert Mueller, director of the F.B.I. as "an Al Qaeda operative and facilitator," raised suspicions when she and her three children vanished in Pakistan in 2003.

She did not turn up again until 2008 in Ghazni, Afghanistan. Her eldest child was with her; the other two are missing.

She was taken into custody in Ghazni after local authorities became suspicious of her loitering outside the provincial governor's compound.

While in custody, on July 18, 2008, prosecutors said, Siddiqui grabbed an M4 automatic rifle from a police station floor and fired on Army officers and F.B.I. agents. She was shot in the abdomen.

Her competency — first to stand trial, and then to take the stand — has been a major point of contention in the case.

But after Judge Berman allowed Siddiqui to testify last week, she claimed that assertions that she had fired a weapon at officers was "the biggest lie."

The weapon was never in her hands, said Siddiqui, who explained that she was merely trying to escape from the station because she feared being tortured. She had been arrested the day before; in her purse were instructions on making explosives and a list of New York landmarks, including the Statue of Liberty, the Brooklyn Bridge and the Empire State Building.

But the charges in the case were not terrorism-related and were restricted to the events in a 300-square-foot room of the Ghazni police station, which is why prosecutors hinged their arguments on the testimony of nine people who were in it or close by.

One of those witnesses was a chief warrant officer, whose name was withheld at the prosecution's request. He limped to the stand using a cane because of injuries sustained in an unrelated roadside bombing in Afghanistan.

Defense lawyers argued that an absence of bullets, casings or residue from the M4 suggested it had not been shot. They used a video to show that two holes in a wall supposedly caused by the M4 had

been there before July 18. They also pointed out inconsistencies in the testimony from the nine government witnesses, who at times gave conflicting accounts of how many people were in the room, where they were sitting or standing and how many shots were fired.

Siddiqui's lawyers said they had not decided whether to appeal. They suggested that prosecutors had played to New Yorkers' anxieties about terror attacks.

"This is not a just and right verdict," Elaine Whitfield Sharp, one of Siddiqui's lawyers, said outside the courtroom. "In my opinion this was based on fear but not fact."

As that verdict was read on Wednesday, 11 guards stood around the edges of the wood-paneled courtroom.

"Today, a jury has brought Aafia Siddiqui to justice in a court of law for trying to murder American military and law enforcement officers, as well as their Afghan colleagues," prosecutors said in a written statement.

Perhaps the most riveting day of the trial was a week ago, when Siddiqui took the stand over the objections of her lawyers, who had fought her testimony until the last minute. Siddiqui recited a long list of academic achievements, including a Ph.D. in neuroscience from Brandeis University.

But she suggested that her studies of chemicals did not equip her to be a terrorist. "To answer your question, I don't know how to make a dirty bomb," she said, adding that she "couldn't kill a rat myself."

In response, prosecutors asked her about six hours of target practice she completed while she was an undergraduate at MIT, which a witness verified.

One of the most sensational parts of Siddiqui's testimony was her claim of being held in a secret prison.

Siddiqui and her children, according to Sharp, were taken at gunpoint by forces backed by the United States in 2003 while traveling in Karachi, Pakistan.

Sharp said these events, and a traumatic subsequent detention, could explain Siddiqui's outbursts.

She added that her client was not anti-Semitic but pro-Palestinian. And she sent a message through reporters, some of whom were from Pakistan: "Dr. Siddiqui wants you all to know that she doesn't want there to be violent protests or violent reprisals in Pakistan over this verdict."



DAVID CHEN—THE TECH

Changes at LaVerde's: There are new stations at its sandwich counter with printed menu slips, though saying your order still works. An iPhone app for sending in orders is promised.



AVIV OVADYA

Guy Fawkes (Chris Smith '12) presents the Idol of Athena to King Phillip of Spain (Noel Morales '12) and his translating nurse (Elaina Present '12). The Shakespeare Ensemble's *William Shakespeare: Raider of the Lost Folio* was written and performed in 24 hours.



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Super Bowl preview: the sports staff’s picks

New Orleans Saints

As a Patriots fan, I always feel obligated to root against the Colts. Unfortunately, over the course of the 2009 season, I’ve had to grudgingly accept that the Colts aren’t a terrible football team. However, the Saints’ superior running game and Dwight Freeney’s questionable status — even if he plays, I have a hard time believing he’ll be as effective as usual — make me feel justified in predicting that the Saints will win. Like most observers, I expect an offensive explosion from both teams. In the end, though, I think Reggie Bush will shake off the Colts’ run defense and make a play worthy of his paycheck.

Now if you’ll excuse me, I need to return to making a voodoo doll of Bernard Pollard.

— Caroline Huang

Heading into Sunday, the Colts are clearly favored. Most experts believe Peyton Manning will dissect the Saints and the Colts will cruise to victory.

Despite all the hype over Peyton Manning, however, the Saints are the team with the more potent offense. With their deep receiver corps — from Devery Henderson to Marques Colston to Jeremy Shockey — they have more downfield threats than the Colts can respond to; Drew Brees will be able to burn the opposing secondary for big plays. In addition, New Orleans has found an effective running game to support their aerial attack, so the Colts can’t just sit back and wait for the pass.

The Saints don’t have the top-ranked defense, and they will give up points. They have shown that they can, however, step up and make big plays. Brett Favre threw for over 300 yards two weeks ago, but the Saints defense also caused five turnovers — including a game-saving interception in the final seconds

of regulation. The big question will be whether the defense can force the Colts to make enough mistakes to give Drew Brees a chance to win the game.

I think they will. This should be a fun game to watch.

— David Zhu

Indianapolis Colts

For the first time since the 1993 season, both number one seeds have made it to the Super Bowl. The NFC’s New Orleans Saints and the AFC’s Indianapolis Colts will face off in Super Bowl XLIV on Sunday. This will be the Saints’ first Super Bowl appearance in the franchise’s 43-year history.

The Saints’ defense will pressure Peyton Manning, just like they did against Brett Favre in the NFC championship game. However, Favre still threw for 310 yards. Manning, four-time MVP, will deliver despite the Saints’ blitz. My vote is for the Colts. I’m looking forward to an exciting, high scoring game.

— Nydia Ruleman

I hate to say it, but I can’t imagine the game will be close. Giving Indianapolis and Peyton Manning two weeks to prepare against New Orleans’ mediocre-at-best defense means trouble for the Saints. Manning was able to lead his team over the best defense in the NFL last week, and the Saints simply won’t be able to stop him...

The Colts defense was also able to hold the Jets, the NFL’s leading rushing team, to under 100 yards in their duel with one week’s preparation. Indy’s coach, Jim Caldwell, has learned from Peyton and former head coach and mentor Tony Dungy — he will not do anything less than to lead the Indianapolis Colts to victory on Sunday.

— Russell Spivak

Pro sports: year in review

By Nydia Ruleman and David Zhu
SPORTS STAFF

Editor’s Note: This piece was supposed to be in the last issue, but was left out. So... here’s your 2009 Pro Sports Year in Review!

2009 was filled with many significant events in the sports world. From the Super Bowl to the World Series, from Roland Garros to South Africa, here’s a look at the past year.

- The Florida Gators win the college football national championship for the second time in the past three years, defeating the Oklahoma Sooners 24-14. Despite the matchup of two potent offenses (Florida averaging 45 ppg and Oklahoma 54 ppg), defense rules the game, with four combined interceptions and Florida stopping two Sooner drives inside their own five-yard line.
- In Super Bowl XLIII, the Pittsburgh Steelers defeat the Arizona Cardinals 27-23 for their NFL-record sixth Super Bowl title. In a suspenseful, back-and-forth game, Steelers wide receiver Antonio Holmes is named MVP after making four catches on the game-winning drive, including a touchdown with 35 seconds remaining.
- With the support of President Obama, the North Carolina Tar Heels win the NCAA Men’s Basketball tournament by defeating Michigan State 89-72. On the women’s side, Connecticut wrapped up its third-ever undefeated season with a win over Louisville.
- Japan wins the second World Baseball Classic by defeating Korea 5-3 in extra innings, making it still the only champion the WBC has ever seen. (Because of the complicated double-elimination format, Japan and Korea faced one another five times in the tournament.) The story of the tournament, however, was that of the Netherlands, which eliminated powerhouse Dominican Republic by beating them twice in one-run games.
- In their sixth NBA finals of the decade, the Los Angeles Lakers beat the Orlando Magic four games to one. Phil Jackson acquires his 10th NBA championship as a coach, setting a new record for most all-time NBA championships by a coach and head coach in a major American sports league. Kobe Bryant

is named the Finals MVP.

- The Pittsburgh Penguins win the Stanley Cup by defeating the Detroit Red Wings in seven games. Evgeny Malkin of the Penguins is named Stanley Cup tournament MVP.
- Roger Federer defeats Andy Roddick to win the French Open, completing a career Gran Slam. (But since he didn’t face Rafael Nadal, does it really count?) Federer goes on to win Wimbledon to earn his fifteenth career Slam title.
- The New York Yankees defeat the Philadelphia Phillies in six games in the inaugural season of new Yankee Stadium. Alex Rodriguez finally remembers how to hit in the postseason, and the Yankees’ huge investments in C.C. Sabathia, A.J. Burnett, and Mark Teixeira pay dividends. The Phillies are denied their second straight World Series title. (On the other side of town in another new ballpark, the Mets choke again, except this time in July and with much less drama.)
- Spaniard Alberto Contador wins the Tour de France cycling race. Teammate Lance Armstrong finishes third after a well-publicized battle for team leadership. Tournament organizers, however, mistakenly play the Danish national anthem instead of Spain’s.
- The Associated Press names NASCAR driver Jimmie Johnson Male Athlete of the Year after Johnson wins his fourth straight championship. Tennis star Serena Williams receives the Female Athlete of the Year award.
- After two years of qualification matches, the pools are determined for the 2010 FIFA World Cup in South Africa. North Korea gets shafted in the selection, and Team USA will face England to open what some believe will be its best opportunity to reach the finals. Nobody in America notices, because we only care about the real “football” over here...
- Real Salt Lake beat Los Angeles Galaxy in a 5-4 penalty shootout to win the MLS Cup. Wait...what’s the MLS? Exactly. (See previous comment about “real football”)
- Named AP Athlete of the Decade, Tiger Woods also makes headlines when news of his multiple affairs surfaces. Corporate slogans like “Be a Tiger” and “Tiger: Is it in you?” take on sinister new meanings...

SCOREBOARD

Men’s Basketball	
Wednesday, 2/3	
vs. Babson College	W 67-49
Women’s Basketball	
Wednesday, 2/3	
vs. Babson College	W 62-48
Men’s Volleyball	
Tuesday, 2/2	
at Newbury College	L 3-1

UPCOMING HOME EVENTS

Saturday, February 6	
Men’s and Women’s Track & Field vs. Williams and Coast Guard	12 p.m., Johnson Track
Women’s Basketball vs. Wellesley	2 p.m., Rockwell Cage

ATHLETES’ CORNER

Ten MIT seniors were honored this weekend at their final home meet of the season. The meet with Amherst was also devoted to the victims of Haiti’s recent earthquake. Over \$300 was raised and donated to Partners in Health and the American Red Cross.

In the pool, senior captains Jeff Y. Zhou ’10, Rastislav Racz ’10 and Luke R. Cummings ’10 easily won the 200 medley relay with teammate Wyatt L. Ubellacker ’13. Their four years of hard work also paid off in their individual events. Additionally, the women achieved season best times in almost every race. Amy E. Jacobi pulled off a stellar performance and secured a NCAA B-cut time in the 100 butterfly.

On the diving boards, Elise A. Stave ’13 turned in a season-best performance, placing a close second on both 1-meter and 3-meter. Co-captain Kristie L. D’Ambrosio ’10 and Elizabeth L. Stavely ’11 also racked up points for the engineers, coming in second and third respectively. Despite injuries, Chao He ’12 placed first for MIT in the 3-meter competition.

MIT swimming and diving will compete in the NEWMACs Championship meet in just two weeks. “We are by far one of the strongest teams in the NEWMAC,” says D’Ambrosio. “We are extremely excited to see how our hard work will pay off at championships!”

— Diana LaScala-Gruenewald and Qing Li, team representatives



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